

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7-13 and 15-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 10-11, 13, 15, 17 and 20 are amended and claims 2-6, 14 and 21-33 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Various amendments are made to the claims for clarity and are unrelated to issues of patentability.

During a November 18 telephone conference with Examiner Hoang, applicant's representative, Mr. Oren, was informed that the September 21 amendments were entered and that any future amendments to place the application in condition for allowance should be based on the September 21 claims.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments:

- (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth below; and/or
- (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration. More specifically, the above amendments place the application in condition for allowance by incorporating allowable subject matter into independent claims and/or rewriting allowable dependent claims into independent form. Other very minor amendments are made for clarity and/or form. These amendments do not require any further search and/or consideration by the Examiner. Entry is therefore proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 6-12 and 14-20 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, allowable features of claim 6 are incorporated into independent claim 1, claim 11 is rewritten into independent form and

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allowable features of claim 14 are incorporated into independent claim 13. Thus, each of independent claims 1, 11 and 13 are allowable.

Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 7-13 and 15-20 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, David C. Oren, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



David C. Oren

Registration No. 38,694

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3701 DCO/kah
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